

ABSTRACT

The invention improves supply of an electronic circuit components by a component tape. When a number of the components remaining in each feeder becomes equal to or smaller than a predetermined number, an operator is informed of a fact that another component tape can be connected to a currently used component tape. In response to the informed fact, the operator connects the currently used component tape as a preceding component tape to the above-described another component tape as a following tape such that a trailing end portion of the preceding component tape and a leading end portion of the following component tape are connected through a connecting tape. A connecting portion of the two connected component tapes is detected by a connecting-portion detecting device in S11, and a two-dimensional code printed on the connecting tape is recognized by an ID decoder in S12. S13 is then implemented to determine whether each data element of the two-dimensional code corresponds to the corresponding data element of a bar code of the preceding component tape or not. If a positive decision is obtained in S13, the component supply is continued. If a negative decision is obtained in S13, the component supply is suspended. It is also possible to use, in place of the two-dimensional code and bar code, an information medium piece to and from which the information is writable and readable by means of a light such as laser light, or an information communication storage chip equipped with a communication portion.